

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISTANB 00620 260809Z

53

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07

INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 SAM-01 OES-03

SP-02 SS-15 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-03 IO-10 PA-01 PRS-01

USIA-06 NEA-09 /109 W

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R 260645Z FEB 75

FM AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5862

INFO AMEMASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL IZMIR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISTANBUL 0620

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: BGEN, ENRG, TU

SUBJECT: MOBIL DISPUTE OVER CRUDE PETROLEUM IMPORT PRICE

REF: (A) ISTANBUL 0444; (B) ISTANBUL 0288

1. MOBIL GENMGR CASANOVA HAS INFORMED US THT HE AND MOBIL'S VP FOR EUROPE MET WITH PM IRMAK ON FEB 21 TO DISCUSS PRESENT IMPASSE OVER PRICE OF IMPORTED CRUDE AND COMPANY'S FUTURE IN TURKEY. CASANOVA CHARACTERIZED THE MEETING, WHICH HE SAID LASTED ALMOST ONE HOUR, AS EXTREMELY FRANK AND PLEASANT.

2. FOLLOWING MOBIL PRESENTATION, PM EXPRESSED SURPRISE MOBIL HAD NOT RECEIVED ESPONSE TO LATEST PRICING PROPOSAL (REF B) TO IMPORT CRUDE FROM PERSIAN GULF. IRMAK ASKED MOBIL REPS TO SEND HIM COPY OF PROPOSAL WHICH HE INTENDED TAKE UP WITH MINENERGY AND IF NECESSARY WITH COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. CASANOVA NOTED THAT NINE MINISTERS IN PRESENT GOVT. HAD BEEN BRIEFED

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ISTANB 00620 260809Z

INDIVIDUALLY BY MOBIL AND THEY HAD EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING FOR

MOBIL'S POSITION.

3. ACCORDING CASANOVA, MOBIL VP DELICATELY RAISED QUESTION WHETHER GOT WISHES MOBIL REMAIN IN TURKEY. PM REPORTEDLY WAS VERY POSITIVE IN HIS REPLY. HE NOTED MOBIL HAD MADE CONTRIBUTION TO TURKEY AND GOVT. WANTED COMPANY TO STAY.

4. IN DISCUSSING POSSIBLE FUTURE EXPLORATION, PM ASKED WHETHER THERE COULD BE ANY SUBSTANTIAL UNDISCOVERED OIL DEPOSITS IN TURKEY. MOBIL REPS. RESPONDED THAT FROM SURVEYS THAT HAD BEEN MADE THEY DID NOT BELIEVE THERE WERE ANY LARGE ONSHORE FIELDS. HOWEVER, THERE ARE SOME INTERESTING PROSPECTS FOR OFFSHORE DRILING, ALTHOUGH THESE AREAS, BY AND LARGE, ARE LOCATED AT A DEPTH BEYOND PRESENT DRILLING CAPACITY, AND IT MIGHT BE FIVE TO TEN YEARS BEFORE EXPLORATION WOULD BE TECHNOLOGICALLY FEASIBLE.

5. CASANOVA SAID HE WOULD CONTINUE TO KEEP US INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS BUT WAS NOT ASKING FOR USG ASSISTANCE. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT DESPITE NUMEROUS FAVORABLE SOUNDING FROM GOT OFFICIALS OVER PAST YEAR LITTLE PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE. PMOREOVER HE WAS NOT SANGUINE ABOUT SUCCESS FROM LATEST EFFORT SINCE, ACCORDING TO HIS SOURCES PRESENT GOVT. WOULD BE REPLACED AFTER BUDGET VOTE. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES HE FELT THAT PROSPECTS NOT GOOD FOR POLITICALLY UNPALATABLE DECISION IN FAVOR OF FOREIGN OIL COMPANIES.
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